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## JUNE BIRDS OF CÆSAR'S HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA.

BY LEVERETT M. LOOMIS.

THIS PAPER is supplementary to the one relating to Mt. Pinnacle and vicinity,\* presenting the results of a further study of the bird fauna of the Alpine Region of South Carolina.

Of the various spurs of the Blue Ridge extending across the northern boundary of the State into the counties of Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee, Cæsar's Head, in the northwestern corner of Greenville, appeared to afford the best field for the continuance of my earlier investigations. Accordingly I visited this mountain on the 26th of May and resided there until the 4th of July, making the hotel on the summit the base of my operations. The interval of my stay covered the flood tide of the breeding season.

The altitude of Cæsar's Head is but little less than that of Mt. Pinnacle. The height of the ridge of the roof of the hotel above the average sea level is given as 3118 feet by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. The highest point is about a hundred feet higher.

Cæsar's Head on the north and east is bounded by the Middle

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\* Auk, Vol. VII, pp. 30-39, 124-130.

Saluda Valley—a deep, narrow gorge, rising on the farther side to the crest of the Saluda Mountains proper, along which runs the tortuous State line on a divide that a little farther on separates waters tributary to the Mississippi and the Atlantic. On the west and southwest Mather's Creek, an affluent of the South Saluda, forms a boundary. To the south the main stream, after its confluence with the creek, skirts the base of an outlying extension of the mountain. The whole eminence is about six miles in length and from one to one and a half miles in width.

The summit of Cæsar's Head is a narrow watershed, reaching northwest to the North Carolina line near Jones's Gap, with several lateral ridges branching off in the direction of the Middle Saluda. These ridges, in turn, are cut up into numerous smaller ones by hollows, each with its brook of clear water. The minor ridges terminate in bluffs and cliffs. The intervening hollows also end abruptly, the little rills being precipitated over walls of rock. This whole region abounds in pellucid streamlets and springs of cold water, one of the latter being far-famed as the 'cold spring.' On the top of the lateral ridges there is much fairly even ground—several hundred acres at least.

The ascent to the hotel from the south side is made by means of the Cæsar's Head Turnpike, which winds upward for about six miles. The summit gained, the road pursues the main ridge, finally crossing the Middle Saluda and joining the Jones's Gap Turnpike, which follows the course of the stream from the country below, entering North Carolina through Jones's Gap. In riding over this ridge road—a verdant arcade in the summer season—the traveler does not realize that he is on the summit of a mountain except at a single point where a ravine, leading up from the Middle Saluda, cuts deep into the backbone of the ridge, opening a vista into the valley, and revealing the ranges beyond. To the northward of Cæsar's Head mountains succeed mountains as far as the eye can reach, but to the southward the landscape of the lower country is overlooked, presenting a widespread panorama of woods and fields, fading away into the hazy blue of the distant horizon.

The name, Cæsar's Head, has its origin in a fancied resemblance to a human face, in profile, of a crag (the Head) facing to the southward on the highest point. Table Rock and Mt. Pinnacle stand out boldly to the southwest. The distance—air

measurement—to the precipice on the former is said to be but five and a quarter miles, though quite a day's journey by mountain roads. At the foot of the Head are the Dismal Mountains, or Dismals—ridges in a sort of basin, surrounded on all sides by mountains, except the south, where Mather's Creek escapes to join the South Saluda. Owing to its sheltered situation and southern exposure the place is noted for being the warmest spot about the mountains. In cold weather it is a favorite resort for cattle.

The mountains of this immediate region are forest-clad from base to summit. The growth is almost entirely deciduous. At the top of Cæsar's Head, particularly on the ridges, the trees do not attain great size. On the sides, however, there is much fine timber. The chestnut is perhaps the most characteristic tree of the region. Toward the end of June it was in full bloom, and a fair idea of its abundance could be had from the overlooking heights—the patches of yellowish appearing in marked contrast with the dark green of the other foliage. On the Middle Saluda there are considerable groups of hemlocks, but only an occasional one is to be found in the hollows at the summit. Unlike the rare *Tsuga caroliniana*, it is confined to the streams. The former occurred on two of the cliffs growing in the scanty soil on the very verge. On the summit the kalmia was in full bloom on my arrival, but the rhododendron did not blossom until nearly a month later, though in flower at the foot. Huckleberries, which abound on many of the ridges, began to ripen after the middle of June. Owing to the custom of periodically burning off these mountains to afford range for stock to the settlements below, the woods in many places present a park-like appearance, often so free from undergrowth as to suggest their having been thinned by the axe. That the pasturage is good is abundantly shown in the sleek red cattle, their Devon ancestry being apparent at a glance. There are only a few clearings—little patches, now or formerly tilled, in miles of unbroken forest. Around the hotel there are about twenty acres of open ground, in lawn, garden, and pasture. The hotel was established in 1837, and has since been the most noted mountain resort in the State.

Of the collateral fauna I have little of relevance to record. The chickaree, known hereabouts as the 'mountain boomer, was not met with, and my inquiries with regard to it uni-

versally elicited the information that it was restricted to the higher mountains some distance on the other side of the line. In the 'catamount,' which was said to be of rare occurrence, was recognized the Canada lynx. The ground squirrel was abundant and generally distributed. The ground hog was not seen, but it was stated to be common. Judging from my own experience, the rattlesnake is one of the most numerous of the Ophidia of the locality. In the Middle Saluda and Mather's Creek speckled trout were abundant—one fisherman taking twenty-nine in a single afternoon at the end of June.

The first four weeks of my sojourn it rained somewhere in the vicinity every day. Over a week of the time the mountains were constantly enveloped in clouds. Notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather I was out every day, extending my observations for several miles in various directions, and down to about 2000 feet on the Middle Saluda and Mather's Creek. In working from the top downward an opposite method was pursued from that followed at Mt. Pinnacle. Owing to the more table-like character of the summits and the consequent better opportunities for observation, and also to the near proximity of my former work, it was deemed best to restrict my efforts to the zone above mid-elevation. It should be borne in mind therefore that the notes which follow relate only to the belt above 2000 feet, particularly to the summit. Where simply corroborative of the former article the annotations have been abridged in order not to consume unnecessary space. The lack of open ground accounts for the absence of field birds irrespective of climatic or other conditions.

1. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE. 'PARTRIDGE.'—Common in the open park-like woods and about the little clearings. Before the arrival of the summer guests their call-notes were heard frequently from the lawn close by the hotel piazza.

2. *Bonasa umbellus*. RUFFED GROUSE. 'PHEASANT.'—While these birds are really common in these mountains, yet, from the nature of their haunts in the early summer season, they readily escape observation. Unless the dense undergrowth bordering the branches in the hollows and the swampy thickets at the heads of the larger streams be diligently hunted, several weeks might be spent rambling about the mountains without a single Pheasant being encountered. They lie so closely, too, that without a dog, even in these retreats, many would be passed unno-

ticed. One day two were flushed from a cluster of rhododendrons within twenty steps of an open spot where I had been resting under a tree, from which a Towhee had been shot a few minutes before. The report of the gun had been unheeded, the birds rising only when I started in their direction in pursuit of a Chestnut-sided Warbler. It is well-nigh impossible to get a shot in the places they frequent unless one is ready to press the trigger the instant they are a-wing. By the end of June they seemed to become more generally distributed, solitary birds being found on the ridges. Emancipation from the care of the nest and the tempting flavor of the ripening huckleberries doubtless encourage wider dispersion, at least on the part of the old males. Young, as large as Bob-whites and under the care of the parent birds, were noted by the middle of June. I did not hear the 'drumming' of the males during the time of my stay. A gentleman, stopping at the hotel, informed me of the presence and occasional capture of this species in the 'flat woods' of Abbeville County. Its range in the Piedmont Region appears to be nearly or quite coextensive with that of the ground squirrel.

3. *Meleagris gallopavo*. WILD TURKEY.—But few 'turkey signs' were seen. From what was learned, it appears that their bands are considerably thinned. I was told of one hunter who had taken thirty the past season, and of another who had secured five at one fire. Bating a trench is said to be the favorite method for their extermination.

4. *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY VULTURE. 'BUZZARD.'—Individuals observed daily soaring over the mountain tops.

5. *Buteo borealis*. RED-TAILED HAWK.—Tolerably common. The Duck Hawk, or 'Squirrel Hawk' as locally called, is reported to breed commonly, a pair at one time having a nest in the cliff at the Head. The Bald Eagle was also mentioned as occurring. As almost my entire time was spent in woods where there was no opportunity for outlook, but scanty knowledge was gained of the Falconidae.

6. *Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. 'RAIN CROW.'—Found about the hotel and elsewhere at the summits, but it was apparently not very common at these highest altitudes.

7. *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER.—Only upon one occasion was the Kingfisher's rattle heard, June 12, in the valley of the Middle Saluda from a cliff above.

8. *Dryobates villosus audubonii*. SOUTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER.—While not strictly typical, the specimens taken are nearer *audubonii* than *villosus*, and in consequence the Hairy Woodpecker of the crest of the mountains is referred to the subspecific form. This Woodpecker is rather common.

9. *Dryobates pubescens*. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—This species was the commonest member of the family met with.

10. *Ceophlœus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER. 'WOOD HEN.'—Common, and unusually tame. Sometimes one would alight quietly on the trunk of a tree within twenty yards of a place where I would be sitting, and peer cautiously from the further side very much as the inquisitive Red-head does, though without the latter's volubility.

11. *Colaptes auratus*. FLICKER.—Only a few were observed, these about the clearings and in the open woods.

12. *Chætura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Every day they were seen about the openings and above the tree tops of the unbroken forest.

13. *Trochilus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. 'HUMMINGBIRD.'—Common, alike in the dark, heavily-wooded ravines and on the sunny ridges about the hotel.

14. *Myiarchus crinitus*. CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Preferred the more open places in the woods. Common.

15. *Sayornis phœbe*. PHŒBE. 'GNATCATCHER.'—A pair had a nest containing eggs over a door in one of the hotel piazzas on my arrival, May 26. I was told that a brood had already been reared by these birds, and that the nesting site was one that had been used for a number of years. At the summits this species was found only in situations exposed to the sun, as about the cliffs and in the little fields.

16. *Contopus virens*. WOOD PEWEE.—The Wood Pewee was one of the commoner birds of the locality. Young-of-the-year, strong of wing, were noted from the outset.

17. *Empidonax acadicus*. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—The altitude of about 2500 feet appeared to limit their vertical range. Along the Middle Saluda they were common; this stream affording an avenue from the foot of the mountains.

18. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY.—Rather irregularly distributed and not very common.

19. *Corvus corax*———. RAVEN.—The croak of the Raven is a familiar sound at the crest of these mountains, a day scarcely passing without one or more being seen or heard. The cliffs on Cæsar's Head and the neighboring heights are said to be nesting places. Their attachment to one of these inaccessible crags as a breeding-place has given the name Raven Cliff Falls to a beautiful cascade, where a tributary of the South Saluda makes its descent into the Dismal Mountains. In May a pair continually harassed the turkeys at the hotel, robbing their nests of eggs, and later preying upon the young. The coming of the summer visitors caused them to give the hotel and its immediate surroundings a wider berth. A narrow 'leading' ridge, however, near by, separating two deep valleys, continued a favorite crossing-point, and a stand taken there and patient watching would certainly have been rewarded by a fair shot, but the necessary time could not be spared from other field work, which is to be regretted, as the subspecific status of the Raven of the Carolina mountains yet remains a mooted point.

20. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW.—The crow was not common. The presence of the Raven and the absence of open ground probably account for its scarcity.

21. *Spinus tristis*. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. 'LETTUCE-BIRD'.—Frequented chiefly the clearings and the open woodlands, where they were tolerably common.

22. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW.—Shunned the densely wooded situations, but were common elsewhere.



23. *Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW.—There was not enough unwooded ground to render them abundant, but every cleared or partially cleared spot was occupied by these persistent songsters. Their notes were mainly normal. After nightfall an occasional song broke the stillness.

24. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE. 'JOE-REE.'—The song of the Towhee was one of the most characteristic in the chorus of bird voices about the hotel grounds. To the close of my stay they sang with unabated energy. They were decidedly common, being generally distributed on the edges of the openings and in the scrubby undergrowth among scattered trees. One was shot on the rocks at the 'head' and fluttered over the cliff. Young birds well able to fly were abroad on my arrival. A second brood appears to be habitually reared. One of the specimens procured exhibited a tendency to albinism in numerous white feathers on the occiput and the back and side of the neck.

25. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. CARDINAL. 'REDBIRD.'—Rather common, particularly about the streams. Its clear and inspiring whistle frequently greeted the ear from the trees on the lawn. Its occurrence above 3000 feet extends its vertical range at least 500 feet higher than recorded at Mt. Pinnacle.

26. *Passerina cyanea*. INDIGO BUNTING.—Like a number of other species, this bird principally affected the openings and locations where the timber was sparse. It was common.

27. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—Except on the ridges leading northeast from the hotel, the Scarlet Tanager was everywhere common. Curiously enough these ridges seemed to be avoided, though without apparent reason. The males continued to sing, with undiminished fervor, up to the day of my departure. They were very shy at first, but as the season advanced they grew tamer. Golden Weaver is their local name, an appellation more appropriate to the Baltimore Oriole.

As at Mt. Pinnacle, the Summer Tanager was not met with at the higher elevations.

28. *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDAR WAXWING.—A male was secured from a company of half-a-dozen at the headwaters of a branch of the South Saluda, June 22. Four days later two other males and a female were obtained from another little band on the Middle Saluda near its source.

29. *Vireo olivaceus*. RED-EYED VIREO.—Of all the feathered tenants of these mountain forests, this one, by far, was the most abundant. In the persistency of its vocal efforts it scarcely had a rival.

30. *Vireo flavifrons*. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—At the higher elevations, uncommon. One sang at times through June from the shade-trees within the hotel inclosure.

31. *Vireo solitarius alticola*. MOUNTAIN SOLITARY VIREO.—In the territory under consideration, this Vireo, in its typical form, was common and evenly distributed. It was found both in the ravines and on the ridges, and in shaded situations as well as sparsely wooded ones. Evergreen and deciduous trees were alike frequented. The males were con-

spicious songsters. With the progress of June the season of song considerably waned, much of their singing being fitful. A musical contest, between two rivals, June 27, was not wanting, however, in the early vigor. The song varied in individuals, the more gifted performers excelling in the variety of their notes. An air of entire absorption characterizes the execution of these sedate musicians. They often appear to be oblivious of the presence of a listener—seemingly lost in the ecstasy of their own vocalization. The minor notes are peculiar—those of the young, which are uttered incessantly when the parents are taken, being striking and indescribable sounds. It was noticed that the males frequently began to sing when their haunts were invaded, and that they occupied the most exposed perches, usually dead limbs, and seemed anxious to attract attention to themselves and to decoy the intruder away from the spot. The female and the young, for family groups were large the first week of June, in the meantime would keep concealed in the thick foliage, eluding casual observation. Sometimes the report of the gun or the ruse of sucking the back of the hand would start the males to singing. As a rule this Vireo is confiding rather than shy. One bird—about a fortnight from the nest—was so unsophisticated as to come within touch of my gun, and peer curiously for several moments, until frightened away, at the strange object that had so suddenly appeared. Birds-of-the-year with fully developed wings were shot on the 9th of June. But a single brood appears ordinarily to be raised, for the organs of reproduction displayed constant degeneration from the outset.

The assertions previously made (Luk, Vol. VII, p. 126; VIII, 169) as to the coloration of the upper parts and the dark color, in adults, of the under mandible are fully sustained in a supplementary series of twenty-nine specimens—twenty-two males, three females, four hornotines. Fresh colors of the lower mandibles of these examples, recorded in the field, are as follows: 'plumbeous-black,' (ad. ♂); 'plumbeous-black, base with stronger indications of plumbeous' (ad. ♀); 'plumbeous, blackening at tip' (♂, ♀ juv.).

DIMENSIONS (in inches).

| <i>Sex</i> | <i>Length</i> | <i>Extent</i> | <i>Chord<br/>of Wing</i> | <i>Chord of<br/>Exp. Culmen</i> |
|------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ♂          | 6.00          | 10.10         | 3.22                     | .47                             |
| ♂          | 5.95          | 10.00         | 3.16                     | .47                             |
| ♂          | 5.95          | 10.00         | 3.15                     | .47                             |
| ♂          | 5.95          | 9.80          | 3.12                     | .47                             |
| ♂          | 5.95          | 9.80          | 3.10                     | .48                             |
| ♂          | 5.90          | 10.00         | 3.18                     | .44                             |
| ♂          | 5.90          | 10.00         | 3.15                     | .44                             |
| ♂          | 5.90          | 9.80          | 3.10                     | .47                             |
| ♂          | 5.90          | 9.80          | 3.09                     | .46                             |
| ♂          | 5.90          | 9.80          | 3.05                     | .47                             |
| ♂          | 5.90          | 9.80          | 3.04                     | .43                             |
| ♂          | 5.85          | 9.70          | 3.05                     | .43                             |



| <i>Sex</i> | <i>Length</i> | <i>Extent</i> | <i>Chord<br/>of Wing</i> | <i>Chord of<br/>Exp. Culmen</i> |
|------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ♂          | 5.80          | 10.00         | 3.17                     | .47                             |
| ♂          | 5.80          | 9.90          | 3.15                     | .44                             |
| ♂          | 5.80          | 9.90          | 3.14                     | .46                             |
| ♂          | 5.80          | 9.90          | 3.12                     | .45                             |
| ♂          | 5.80          | 9.90          | 3.10                     | .49                             |
| ♂          | 5.80          | 9.50          | 2.98                     | .47                             |
| ♂          | 5.75          | 9.90          | 3.13                     | .44                             |
| ♂          | 5.70          | 10.00         | 3.18                     | .44                             |
| ♂          | 5.70          | 9.80          | 3.11                     | .43                             |
| ♂          | 5.65          | 9.60          | 3.01                     | .43                             |
| ♀          | 5.95          | 10.00         | 3.16                     | .44                             |
| ♀          | 5.90          | 9.80          | 3.10                     | .43                             |
| ♀          | 5.65          | 9.70          | 3.05                     |                                 |

32. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.—A very common inhabitant of these mountains.

33. *Helmitherus vermivorus*. WORM-EATING WARBLER.—Along the branches and on the shady hillsides and ridges, very common. Young, hardly able to fly, were noted as late as the 29th of June. The males sang on into July.

34. *Helminthophila chrysoptera*. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—Detected only at the head of the Middle Saluda where it crosses the Cæsar's Head Turnpike, at an altitude of about 2500 feet. Here a colony had been established in a sunny spot among the rhododendrons and kalmias fringing the stream and on the adjoining bush-grown hillside. Young birds were caught in the hand June 19.

35. *Compsothlypis americana*. PARULA WARBLER.—Though not as abundant as at the lower elevations, still it was common. Confined to the hollows.

36. *Dendroica pensylvanica*. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER.—This Warbler is very common in this locality. It haunts the shrubbery of the streams, especially in the neighborhood of borders having sun exposure. Several pairs made their home in a little dell at the foot of the hotel lawn, where a number of bold springs mingled their cold rock waters in a quiet brooklet that meandered through rhododendron shades until it leaped into the sunlight over a crag to the valley below. The young were on wing the second week of June. There was no pause in the song season.

37. *Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—JUNE 3 I followed one of the long wooded ridges extending northeast from the hotel to a cliff overlooking the valley of the Middle Saluda. As I stood on this rocky bluff, the songs of several Black-throated Green Warblers, rising above the sound of falling water, came from the billowy green a thousand feet below. This was the first intimation I had of the presence of this bird, for a week spent in exploring the ground nearest to the hotel had not revealed it. Several excursions were made into this valley, and these Warblers were found to be common along the main stream and its tribu-

tries at an elevation of about 2000 feet. Stragglers were observed several hundred feet higher. Nowhere else were they met with except at about the same altitude on Mather's Creek. It is remarkable that this bird should shun the higher ground, and occur only on the water courses leading up from the country below. This peculiar distribution is not to be explained on the score of temperature; for the cool deep gorge on the north side differed widely in this respect from the hot cove, walled in on every hand, except the south, by precipitous mountains. Neither does this restriction of range appear to be accounted for by floral considerations; as this species was not found among the hemlocks toward the source of the Middle Saluda, nor was it limited to the places where these evergreens most abound. All this witnesses that the boreal character of the fauna of this region is imparted by the combined influence of the mountains and not by mere vertical position on the peaks and ridges; and that this paramount influence is modified, as where latitude is involved, by auxiliary agencies, the result being local distribution. They were exceedingly shy. The testes of a male examined June 17 were fully developed. Their singing suffered no abatement during the interval of my sojourn.

38. *Dendroica vigorsii*. PINE WARBLER.—Two males, in full song, were noted June 29 on a piny ridge between the Dismals and South Saluda well up to 3000 feet. This was the only locality visited where there were other than isolated pines. The occurrence of this evergreen in bodies appears to determine the upward range of this Warbler, which affords a striking exemplification of floral influence upon local distribution.

39. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. OVEN-BIRD.—Abundant on the ridges and hillsides. Young were well on wing June 10. By the second week of June there began to be a falling off in song, though the voices of the singers remained strong to the last.

40. *Seiurus motacilla*. LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH.—Not as plentiful on these summits as at the lower levels on Mt. Pinnacle. The adults apparently migrated about the middle of June.

41. *Geothlypis formosa*. KENTUCKY WARBLER.—An abundant bird of the spring branches and larger streams. In the 'Observations' upon the summer mountain birds of Pickens (Auk, Vol. VII, p. 129) a nuptial song was spoken of. This was heard a number of times the past season, thrice one cloudy day at a water-fall on the Middle Saluda—the sweet wild notes rising above the fall of the water, brightening for a moment the deepened shade of the rhododendrons and hemlocks. The parents were extremely solicitous for their offspring, the sounds made by the lips on the back of the hand driving them nearly frantic with anxiety. Oven-birds were similarly affected.

42. *Icteria virens*. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. 'MOCKINGBIRD.'—Prominent in the vicinity of running water away from shaded situations.

43. *Sylvania mitrata*. HOODED WARBLER.—Although reaching the highest spring heads, it occurs but sparingly above 2500 feet. Common below this height on the Middle Saluda.

44. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—A few were met with about openings along the Cæsar's Head Turnpike in the vicinity of the Middle Saluda.

45. *Harporyhynchus rufus*. BROWN THRASHER. 'THRASHER.'—Were not very common. Several pairs had their abode at the very top of the mountain about the hotel and the Head, above 3000 feet.

46. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN.—Universally distributed, finding congenial habitation in all sorts of locations; very common.

47. *Thryothorus bewickii*. BEWICK'S WREN.—An adult male was shot June 4, while singing, at the hotel. Two days before, at a little lower elevation over a mile away, a family group was seen at a cabin in a cultivated field. They remained on the premises to the close of my visit.

48. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH.—The White-breasted Nuthatch is a common and generally distributed species throughout this region.

49. *Parus bicolor*. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Abundant, ranging everywhere over these highlands.

50. *Parus carolinensis*. CAROLINA CHICKADEE. 'TOM-TIT.'—Rather less numerous than the Tufted Titmouse, but equally ubiquitous.

51. *Turdus mustelinus*. WOOD THRUSH. 'NIGHTINGALE.'—Common, but singularly shuns some portions of the locality. In the neighborhood of the hotel it was the leading voice in the daily concert. Rather shy.

52. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Every suitable situation was occupied by one or more family gatherings.

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## LIST OF BIRDS COLLECTED ON THE BAHAMA ISLANDS BY THE NATURALISTS\* OF THE FISH COMMISSION STEAMER *ALBATROSS*.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

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### I. ABACO.

1. *Mimocichla plumbea* (Linn.).—12 specimens, March 26 to April 7.
2. *Mimus polyglottos elegans* (Sharpe) †—1 specimen, March 26.

\* Mr. James E. Benedict, in charge, assisted by Mr. Willard Nye, Jr., Mr. Charles W. Townsend, Mr. Thomas Lee, and Prof. L. F. Washburne.

† *Mimus elegans* Sharpe, Cat. B. Br. Mus. Vol. VI, 1881, 339. So far as the white on the primaries is concerned, this specimen is not distinguishable from true *M. polyglottos*, which is also the case with an example from Inagua, collected by Dr. Bryant. *M. elegans* cannot, therefore, if these specimens are really the same bird, be separated by the ascribed characters, even as a local race; and I have strong doubts as to its validity, unless smaller bill alone may be deemed sufficient to justify its separation.